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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/833,433	04/12/2001	Deborah A. Sollenberger	13DV13926	5280
6111	7590	11/17/2004	EXAMINER	
GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY ANDREW C HESS GE AIRCRAFT ENGINES ONE NEUMANN WAY M/D H17 CINCINNATI, OH 452156301			REILLY, SEAN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2153	

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/833,433	SOLLENBERGER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sean Reilly	2153	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) * | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is a first action on the merits of this application. Claims 1-20 are presented for further examination.

Priority

1. The effective filing date for the subject matter defined in the pending claims of this application is 4/12/2001.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 9 is objected to because of the following informalities: the claim would be clearer if rewritten to read, "at least one module is configured to". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 2 recites the limitation "the organization" in the last line. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 10, 11, 14, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Anuff et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,327,628, hereinafter "Anuff").

a) Regarding claim 1, Anuff discloses a system for a user to access information and applications on a network, the system comprising:

- a server computer (Col 3, lines 4-8) comprising a processor (inherent) and a storage device (inherent);
- a client computer connected to the server computer (Col 3, lines 4-8); and
- a portal stored in the storage device of the server computer (Col 4, lines 16-17 and Col 3, lines 19-22) and accessible by the user on the client computer (Col 3, lines 19-22), the portal being configured to provide access to information and applications on a network (Col 3, lines 59-65), the portal comprising:
 - a plurality of sections (groups), wherein each section of the plurality of sections comprising means for providing access to a particular type of information or application stored on the network (Col 4, lines 6-12); and
 - means for the user to personalize at least one section of the plurality of sections to provide the user with access to particular information and applications related to at least one section of the plurality of sections as selected by the user (Col 4, lines 7-12 and Col 3, lines 59-65).

b) Regarding claims 11 and 14, Anuff discloses a *portal* and a *computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium and executable by a computer* for a user to obtain access to information and applications stored at a plurality of locations, the portal comprising:

- a plurality of sections (groups), wherein each section of the plurality of sections (Col 4, lines 6-12), being directed to a group of related information sources and applications stored at a plurality of locations (Col 3, lines 59-65), and each section of the plurality of sections comprising means for providing access to the corresponding group of related information sources and applications (provides the user with access) (Col 3, lines 59-65); and
- means for the user to personalize at least one section of the plurality of sections to provide the user with access to particular information sources and applications in the group of related information sources and applications designated by the user (Col 4, lines 7-12 and Col 3, lines 59-65).

c) Regarding claim 10, Anuff discloses the system of claim 1 wherein the client computer and the server computer are connected on an Intranet (LAN) (Col 3, lines 8-11).

d) Regarding claim 20, Anuff discloses the computer program product of claim 14 wherein the means for providing access to the corresponding group of related information sources comprises means for providing access to information sources and applications stored on at least one of an Intranet, an Internet and an internal network (Col 3, lines 8-11).

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2-4, 6-9, 12-13, 15-16, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anuff et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,327,628, hereinafter "Anuff") as applied to the claims above.

6. Regarding claims 2, 12, and 15, Anuff discloses the system, portal, and computer program product of claims 2, 12 and 15 respectively, wherein the plurality of sections comprises a section, where the section comprises means for providing access to information and applications pertaining to:

- ☐ personal selections by the user (Col 4, lines 7-10);

a) Regarding the following limitation of claims 2, 12, and 15, wherein the plurality of sections comprises a section, where the *section* comprises means for providing access to information and applications pertaining to:

- ☐ an organization associated with the user;

It is widely known that a *portal* is simply a collection of aggregated content displayed through text, links, applications and/or other means (Abstract). A *section* within a portal is also a collection of aggregated content displayed through text, links, applications and/or other means (Col 3, lines 59-65). It can therefore be interpreted that a *section* within a portal is itself a portal.

Anuff discloses a portal, where the *portal* comprises means for providing access to information and applications pertaining to an organization (group) associated with the user (Col

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9, lines 24-33) [user groups enable different portals to be targeted to different users]. Thus, given that a section in a portal is itself a portal, Anuff discloses the above limitations of claims 2, 12, and 15 under part 6a.

Regarding the related limitation: a *division of the* organization associated with the user, this limitation is rejected under similar grounds as the above limitation under 6a. As discussed above, Anuff discloses the use of “user groups.” A *division within an organization* is simply another grouping of users, and fails to further limit.

b) Regarding the following limitations of claims 2, 12, and 15, wherein the plurality of sections comprises a section, where the section comprises means for providing access to information and applications pertaining to:

- ☐ customers of the organization associated with the user;
- ☐ performance of the organization associated with the user;
- ☐ providing feedback to the organization associated with the user;

Anuff's portal system allows for the customization of modules (the customization of content within a specific section of the portal) (Col 4, lines 7-12). Anuff further discloses that within a corporate context a user may desire to have quick access to various resources and data provided by an employer (Col 3, lines 32-36). It was well known in the art at the time of invention that many companies regularly distribute information and applications pertaining to the customers and performance of a given organization within a company to their employees. Further, it was also well known at the time of invention that companies regularly distribute information and applications for providing feedback to an organization within a company. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include

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within Anuff's system, access to information and applications pertaining to: 1) customers and performance of the organization associated with a user and 2) providing feedback to the organization associated with a user; given that Anuff discloses that the portal system may be personalized and a user may desire to have quick access to resources and data provided by his or her employer (within a corporate context) (cited above).

7. Regarding claims 3, 13, and 16, it is inherent that any portal section which contains content will contain a module for providing that content (Col 4, lines 7-12 and Col 3, lines 59-65).
8. Regarding claim 4, Anuff discloses a means for the user to personalize at least one section of the plurality of sections comprises means for the user to select at least one module for the section of the plurality of sections being personalized by the user (Col 4, lines 7-12).
9. Regarding claims 6, 7, 18, and 19 Anuff discloses a means for the user to personalize at least one section of the plurality of sections comprises means for arranging the selected at least one module in the section of the plurality of sections being personalized (Col 14, lines 10-14).
10. Regarding claim 8, Anuff discloses the system of claim 3 wherein said at least one module is constructed with Java Server Page (Col 2, lines 61-67).
11. Regarding claim 9, Anuff discloses the system of claim 3 wherein the at least one module being configured to provide access to information and applications located remotely from the network (Col 3, lines 59-65).

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12. Examiner takes Official Notice (see MPEP § 2144.03) that generating a preview of a user selection before the user finalizes the selection in the computer networking environment was well known in the art at the time the invention was made.

13. Claims 5 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anuff et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,327,628, hereinafter "Anuff") as applied to the claims above and further in view of the Examiner Official Notice (Bullet #12).

Regarding claims 5 and 17 Anuff discloses a means for filtering modules to generate a list of modules and for selecting a module from the generated list of modules (Col 14, lines 10-14). However Anuff fails to disclose a means for previewing a module from a list of modules. It was well known in the art at the time of invention to generate a preview of a user selection before the user finalizes the selection as evidenced in by the Examiner Official Notice. It would have been obvious at the time of invention to incorporate in Anuff's system a means for previewing user-selected modules so that a user can confirm he or she is has selected the appropriate module before completing the module selection.

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record, in PTO form 892, and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

15. This office action is made NON-FINAL.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sean Reilly whose telephone number is 571-272-4228. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glen Burgess can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Tuesday, November 8, 2004


KRISNA LIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER